CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 9 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE CONCERNING FRANCE'S DECISION TO RESUME NUCLEAR TESTING

I have the honour to forward to you the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine concerning the decision made by France to resume nuclear tests, dated 13 July 1995.

Please take the appropriate steps to register this document as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament, and to have it distributed to all member States' and non-member States' delegations taking part in the work of the Conference.

(Signed) Olexander Slipchenko
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine
Head of delegation

STATEMENT
by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
concerning France's decision to resume nuclear testing

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine wishes to express its profound concern at the decision taken by France to resume nuclear testing in the south Pacific.

This step, taken by France soon after the completion of the work of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which adopted the historic decision to extend the Treaty indefinitely, conflicts with the provisions of the document adopted by the Conference on "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament" and will not promote the development of the positive trends which have recently been observed in the field of nuclear disarmament.

The ending of the moratorium and the resumption of testing run counter to the agreement of the nuclear States to exercise "utmost restraint" pending the entry into force of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty (CTBT), as well as the reaffirmation of the conviction that "the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones ... enhances global and regional peace and security".

The resumption of nuclear testing by France may call into question the prospect of the successful completion no later than 1996 of the negotiations on a CTBT being carried out in the Conference on Disarmament, which in turn will slow down the implementation of other measures in the sphere of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Ukraine, which has demonstrated by means of practical actions the consistency of its foreign policy in strengthening the global regime for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, calls on France to take all necessary steps to ensure the speediest possible conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty (CTBT), to review its decision to resume nuclear testing and to join other nuclear States in complying with the moratorium on the conduct of such tests.

13 July 1995